MISSILE DEFENSE AGENCY
Fact Sheet

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Block 2004 Development

This period of development, Block 2004, represents calendar years 2004-2005. The initial capability fielded in 2004 is the beginning, and over time, this block approach will yield a fully integrated and layered Ballistic Missile Defense System, capable of defeating ballistic missiles of all ranges and in all phases of flights.

The following are critical program area additions that are expected to be added to the Ballistic Missile Defense System in Block 2004:

Boost

- Airborne Laser: ground testing of the high-energy laser, first flight of the Airborne Laser weapons system, and a successful track and engagement of a target by the laser
- Kinetic Energy Interceptor: continued development of the ground and sea-based interceptors

Midcourse

- Ground-based Midcourse Defense: 18 total Ground-based Interceptors, with 2 at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. and 16 at Ft. Greely, Alaska.
- Aegis: 10 sea-based Surveillance and Track Destroyers, 2 Engagement/Surveillance and Track Cruisers, 8 Standard Missile-3 sea-based interceptors

Terminal

- Terminal High Altitude Area Defense: radar and missile flight tests will be conducted against short and medium range targets
- 281 Patriot Advanced Capablility-3 missiles (operated by the U.S. Army)

Sensors

- Sea-based X-band radar: will be introduced to the Missile Defense Test Bed in 2005 to provide more realistic sensor information in tests using long-range targets and countermeasures, and will also enhance operational capability.
- Upgraded Cobra Dane (Alaska) and Fylingdales (United Kingdom) radar: to improve missile detection and tracking

Command, Control, Battle Management, and Communications

- Command and Control (C2) communications will be demonstrated by situational awareness, battle management, track correlation, and execution of preplanned responses

Testing

- Operationally realistic system tests and exercises will be conducted, including a number of integrated flight tests
- Tests will emphasize system integration and will include exercises of the Command, Control, Battle Management, and Communications capability during flight tests.